



INDIANA COMMISSION  
for  
HIGHER EDUCATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Indiana Commission for Higher Education launches statewide P-16 efforts to help Hoosiers get more education**

*Learn More Resource Center to provide new Web site, expanded Helpline and additional resources to support parents, students and school counselors*

BLOOMINGTON – October 8, 2004 – The Indiana Commission for Higher Education today announced an aggressive effort to advance education and training of Indiana citizens with the statewide launch of Learn More Resource Center, *Indiana's Pre-K to College Connection*.

“Learn More’s new, comprehensive Web site, free Helpline and expanded outreach efforts will give parents and school counselors the information they need to support student learning from the very early years of a child’s life, through K-12 education, college and beyond,” said Stan Jones, Indiana’s Commissioner for Higher Education. “Learn More also will provide information and services directly to students including help in exploring careers, encouragement to take rigorous Core 40 coursework, links to college campuses and more.”

Focusing on providing information to families earlier, Learn More builds on the previous work and success of the Indiana Career and Postsecondary Advancement Center (ICPAC) to support many of the initiatives of the Indiana Education Roundtable’s P-16 Plan for Improving Student Achievement. The comprehensive plan outlines strategies for ensuring all students have the academic foundation they need to successfully complete postsecondary education (associate’s degrees, bachelor’s degrees, apprenticeships and military training).

Terry Fields, State Director, Vocational and Technical Education at the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, sees a need for expanding career and

college resources. “We’ve made a great deal of progress in Indiana in helping our students realize they need education beyond high school. But there’s more to do to make sure all of our students have these opportunities. Learn More’s efforts will take Indiana’s academic, technical, college and career information to the next level.”

Center officials are optimistic. Last year, ICPAC distributed more than 218,000 informational pieces, had more than 46 million Web site hits and fielded more than 30,000 Helpline calls. With expanded resources, numbers are expected to rise. Program Director Gail McDaniel said Learn More will be more proactive and targeted to reaching out to families, students and school counselors. Work is underway to double Web resources later this fall with the addition of sections designed specifically for students, adult learners and college counselors.

The first phase of Learn More’s new Web site provides parents and school counselors with an array of user-friendly resources:

- Parent tips for student success
- Helpful checklists of “to do’s” at each grade level
- Information on finding extra academic assistance
- Career exploration and planning tools
- Direct links to Indiana colleges and universities
- Financial aid and scholarship information

Later this fall Learn More’s Web site will feature additional information for students and parents. Parents of young children will find information on what they can do to make sure their child has the early learning experiences necessary for healthy brain development, how to select a quality pre-Kindergarten program, saving for college, important ways to be involved in a child’s education and more. Students will find career exploration activities and study skills suggestions. Adult learners will find resources for furthering their education and changing careers.

Henry Fernandez, Executive Director of Scholarships, Outreach and Philanthropy for USA Funds, said, “As a nonprofit organization that promotes higher-

education-access in Indiana, USA Funds is delighted to contribute to this expanded effort to help students further their education. We're especially pleased with the plans to aggressively promote the Learn More Helpline, which we are underwriting for a second consecutive year. We think it's important that Indiana families are aware of the toll-free number that they can call to get answers to education, college and career questions."

"The name 'Learn More' is perfect for this new resource because it speaks to the overall goal of improving student achievement and encouraging higher educational pursuits," echoed Sue Reynolds, Guidance and Counseling Specialist with the Indiana Department of Education. "It's an awesome resource for school counselors as they work with elementary, middle and high school students, as well as with parents."

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Learn More Resource Center, *Indiana's Pre-K to College Connection*, supports and encourages lifelong learning for all Indiana citizens. Up-to-date materials, helpful checklists and other valuable resources provide parents, students, counselors and others with information about every aspect of education from early learning to K-12 to college to career. Learn More's comprehensive Web site and trained Helpline specialists offer support in making sure Hoosier children are ready to learn in Kindergarten, reading at grade level by Grade 3, exploring and setting sights on college and careers in middle school, taking rigorous Core 40 coursework in high school and completing postsecondary education.

Under the direction of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Learn More (formerly the Indiana Career and Postsecondary Advancement Center) is also supported through partnerships with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, USA Funds and Lumina Foundation for Education. Visit [www.learnmoreindiana.org](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org) or call 1-800-992-2076.

**Learn More Resource Center**  
***Indiana's Pre-K to College Connection***  
**FACT SHEET**

**What is Learn More Resource Center?**

Learn More Resource Center, *Indiana's Pre-K to College Connection*, supports and encourages lifelong learning for all Indiana citizens. Up-to-date materials, helpful checklists and other valuable resources and tools provide parents, students, school counselors and others with information about every aspect of education from the early years of learning through K-12 education, college and beyond. Learn More builds on the previous work and success of the Indiana Career and Postsecondary Advancement Center (ICPAC) and supports many of the key components called for in the Indiana Education Roundtable's *P-16 Plan for Improving Student Achievement*.

**What does it mean to be *Indiana's Pre-K to College Connection*?**

Learn More Resource Center is a new, strategic statewide initiative to support student learning. Focused on aggressive outreach communication efforts, Learn More gives parents, students and school counselors more comprehensive information at every level to ensure college and career success.

**What services are available from Learn More?**

Learn More has three core components for helping all Hoosiers get the education they need for a successful future: a new, comprehensive Web site ([www.learnmoreindiana.org](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org)), a free Helpline (1-800-992-2076), and expanded outreach materials for parents, students, and school counselors. Aprenda Más en español (Learn More in Spanish) also provides translations, materials and resources in Spanish.

**What resources are available on the Web site?**

Learn More Resource Center's Web site provides a one-stop online source for information to plan postsecondary education and careers. The site features up-to-date, easy-to-use tools, such as parent tips for student success, helpful checklists of "to-do's" at each grade level, information on finding extra academic assistance, and career exploration and planning tools. The site also provides direct links to Indiana colleges and universities and financial aid and scholarship information. Web resources will double this fall with the addition of specific sections for students, adult learners and college counselors.

**When is the telephone Helpline available?**

Learn More's toll-free telephone Helpline is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and it is staffed by trained information specialists who can provide one-on-one information based on each caller's needs.

**Does Learn More offer an option in Spanish?**

Yes, Aprenda Más en español (Learn More in Spanish). Both the Web site and Helpline have resources for Spanish speaking individuals and families.

### **Who operates Learn More Resource Center?**

Under the direction of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Learn More (formerly the Indiana Career and Postsecondary Advancement Center) is also supported through partnerships with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, USA Funds and Lumina Foundation for Education.

### **How is Learn More different from ICPAC?**

Since its inception in 1986, ICPAC provided unrivaled support and guidance focused on college and career choices to Indiana's high school students. In just over a decade, Indiana improved its participation in postsecondary education from less than 37 percent in 1986 to more than 61 percent today and improved its national ranking from 40<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. In 2003, ICPAC distributed 218,340 informational pieces, had 46 million Web site hits and fielded more than 30,000 Helpline calls. Learn More updates and builds on the initiatives of ICPAC, expanding to offer a more comprehensive Web site and additional telephone Helpline services. Learn More takes student learning and college and career information to the next level with aggressive outreach to parents, students and school counselors. Learn More will expand to serve adult learners seeking additional training opportunities, as well as parents preparing young children for school readiness. Learn More will continue to conduct an annual college and career aspiration survey for high school students.

### **Why is Learn More important?**

Learn More recognizes that in today's world, Indiana students need to successfully complete postsecondary education. On average, college graduates make \$1 million more in their lifetimes than high school graduates. And, if just 10,000 more students per year earned college degrees, Indiana's economy would grow by an extra \$250 million.

### **What is the Indiana Education Roundtable's P-16 Plan for Improving Student Achievement?**

The P-16 Initiative is a comprehensive state effort to ensure all students have the academic foundation to successfully complete postsecondary education (associate's degree, bachelor's degree, rigorous apprenticeship or military training). Success will be realized when Indiana's entire education system – from a child's early development, elementary, middle school, high school and college – works together to prepare and enable all students to achieve at the highest levels. More information is available at [www.roundtable.state.in.us](http://www.roundtable.state.in.us).

### **What is the mission of Learn More Resource Center?**

The mission of Learn More Resource Center, *Indiana's Pre-K to College Connection*, is to inform, encourage, and support the P-16 education and career development of the people of Indiana.

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Today's students will need more than a high school diploma to get ahead. The **Learn More Resource Center**, Indiana's Pre-K to College Connection, helps Hoosiers of all ages realize a better future. Follow these links to find information, tools, opportunities and support.

#### DID YOU KNOW

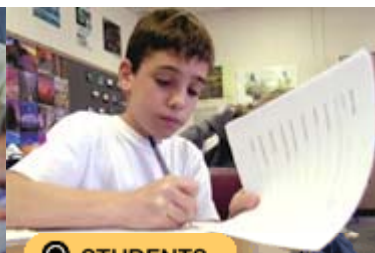
If just 10,000 more students per year earned college degrees, Indiana's economy would grow by an extra \$250 million. Plan to get education that will help you get your share.



#### PARENTS

How do you plan for your child's future? It's hard enough planning and keeping up with your child's day-to-day activities and needs. From birth to college, here's how you can help your son or daughter get the foundation needed to succeed in life.

- BIRTH TO PRE-K ●
- K-GRADE 2 ●
- GRADES 3-5 ●
- GRADES 6-8 ●
- GRADES 9-12 ●
- AFTER HIGH SCHOOL ●



#### STUDENTS

What do you want to be and how do you get there? Surf this site to find answers about school, careers, college, financial aid and more.

- ELEMENTARY ●
- MIDDLE ●
- HIGH SCHOOL ●
- COLLEGE ●



#### COUNSELORS

Need assistance helping your student with academic, career and citizenship development? All the essential tools on colleges, financial aid and more are a click away.

- ELEMENTARY ●
- MIDDLE ●
- HIGH SCHOOL ●
- COLLEGE ●



#### ADULTS

What's the best fit for your current interests, skills and experience? Here's how we can help you figure out what's next for you.

- CAREER CHANGERS ●
- ADULT STUDENTS ●
- JOB SEEKERS ●

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- Parents: After High School

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## Parents: Grades 9-12

### Support at Home - The Edge Your Teen Needs

Learning doesn't take place only in the classroom. Students spend far more time at home than they do in school - so how they spend that time can make a real difference.

Nothing will have a bigger impact on your student's success than your involvement in his or her education. Here are ideas and resources to help your child succeed in school and in life.

**Parent Checklist:** Quick list of things parents can do to make sure students in Grades 9-12 are on the path to success.

**Support Your Child's Learning:** How parents can support their student's progress throughout high school and prepare him or her for success in college and careers.

**Academic Development:** What parents need to know about high school graduation requirements, Core 40, Academic Honors, Advanced Placement, technical education, choosing electives and more.

**College and Careers:** How parents can help their student find the right college, training and career after high school.

**Healthy Minds and Bodies:** Resources for parents to help their student do his or her best - physically and mentally.

[MY E-FOLDER](#)

#### HEADS UP

Now is the time to register for the PSAT's. Your teen's school counselor has details on dates and times.

#### DID YOU KNOW

**One-third of ninth-graders have major reading problems.** An estimated one-third of students enter ninth grade with reading skills that are two or more years below grade level, according to a Johns Hopkins University study. That means big problems ahead for those who don't get the help they need. *Source;Balfanz, McPartland & Shaw, Center for Social Organization of Schools, Johns Hopkins University, 2002.*



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[MY E-FOLDER](#)

## Parents Count

## Monthly Topics


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### September - Back to School:

Going back to school is a big adjustment for a child! This is especially true for a ninth-grader entering high school, who can suffer from the shock of suddenly being the smallest fish in a big pond. But whether you are the parent of a 9th-grader or a first-grader, there is plenty you can do to help.

### October - Reading is the Key to Learning:

There is nothing more important to your child's future than reading. He or she will need to read well in order to excel in all other subjects in school, follow written instructions, learn from books, study, take tests, fill out a job application or write a job report. And it all starts with parents. Set an example by having books at home. Check in with your child's teachers and guidance counselors to find out if they see any problems. Keep an eye on your child's written homework. Make regular trips with your child to the public library. And most importantly, stay involved. Parents are the key!





## **Back to School**

### **[Making the Most of a New Beginning](#)** **[What Parents Can Do](#)** **[Back to School Facts for Parents](#)**

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#### **Making the Most of a New Beginning**

If you are the parent of an incoming high schooler, remember that the transition into high school is the toughest one for many students. It's the time when a child makes the jump from middle school, where he or she felt reasonably secure, to high school, where he or she is suddenly at the bottom of the pecking order in a big, competitive community. Don't make the mistake of thinking that your "independent" high schooler doesn't need your help. When you set high expectations, regularly ask your child how things are going, keep tabs on schoolwork and check in with teachers, you boost your child's chances of success. Going back to school can mean a big adjustment for your child. That is why a parent's help can make such a big difference now. This year is another chance to make your support count.

#### **What Parents Can Do**

**For parents of a high-schooler:**

- **Ask your child, often, how things are going at school. Don't just push for good news. Let your child know that you are interested in helping with any problems.**
- **Talk with your child about what he or she wants to do after graduating. Help your child to come up with a plan for selecting courses, applying to colleges or finding a job.**
- **Set a regular study time each day, during which no phone calls, TV or visitors are allowed.**
- **Review your child's course selection to be sure he or she is on track for his or her career goals. Keep tabs on homework, too. Many schools post homework assignments daily on a web site that parents can check.**
- **Meet with all teachers each semester.**

### **Back to School Facts for Parents**

**Students do better in school when parents stay involved. Thirty years of research has proven it. When parents are actively involved with a child's education, the child performs better in school and has a greater chance of success in life. In fact, statistics show that the most accurate predictor of a student's future success is the degree to which his or her family encourages learning, sets high expectations and gets involved with the child's school.**

**Source: Funkhouser & Gonzales, Henderson & Berla, and other studies, cited in *Turning Points*.**

**Ninth grade is a "make-it-or-break-it" year. For many students, the shock of moving from middle school to high school causes big problems. Educators call it 'the ninth-grade slump,' and it has been steadily worsening for decades. In the 1970's, 5 percent of American ninth-graders failed to move on to 10th grade. By the mid-1990's, it had reached 10 percent, or 400,000 students a year. Moreover, a 1998 national study showed that 25 percent of students who fail ninth grade will also fail to finish high school. At some schools, the percentage is as high as 45 percent.**

**Source: Center For the Study of Testing, Evaluation and Educational Policy, and Hertzog & Morgan, both cited in *American School Board Journal*, February 2004.**

**Students say their parents have a big influence on their plans for the future. In a recent study, 93 percent of eighth and ninth graders said that their mothers were helpful in planning their future college or career moves, and 87 percent said that their fathers were helpful. Focus groups revealed that students relied on parents for motivation and encouragement.**

**Source: Wimberly & Noeth, cited in *Schools Involving Parents In Early Postsecondary Planning: ACT Policy Report*, 2004.**

**Half of high schoolers say that 'no one' at their school has been a mentor to them. In a national 2001 study of high-school juniors and seniors, 51 percent said that 'no one' at their school had been a mentor or especially helpful to them in making plans for their future education or career. Many, however, said they looked to relatives for advice. It's another way that parents and caregivers play a crucial role.**

**Source: *Decisions Without Direction*, Ferris State University, May 2002**

**Adolescents spend nearly half of their waking hours in school. For an adolescent, and even for an elementary or middle school student, school is where much of life happens. School is where children learn to socialize, to take on new tasks, and to act out their independence. But they bring to school everything they have learned at home. And what happens at home can shape a student's approach to education for the rest of his or her life.**

**Source: Kerr, in *Educational Research Service Spectrum*, Summer 2002.**

**Teens need you more now than ever. Most parents surveyed by Public Agenda said, "It's natural for parents to be less involved when kids reach high school." Virtually all teens surveyed said, "the most important thing parents can do is stay involved in their lives and schoolwork."**

**Source: "Playing Their Parts," *Public Agenda*, 1999.**

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